

203rd RED HORSE Flight

Unit Name: 203rd RED HORSE Flight (Virginia Air National Guard) **Location:** Camp Pendleton, Virginia Beach, VA

Commander: Lt Col Thomas J. Turlip

Assigned Personnel: 160 military, 4 state employees **Federal Mission:** Provide a highly mobile, rapidly deployable, civil engineering response force that is self-sufficient for a limited period of time, to perform heavy damage repair required for recovery of critical Air Force and utility systems for aircraft launch and recovery. Accomplish engineering support for bed-down of weapons systems and the installation of critical utility and support systems required to initiate and sustain operations, especially in austere locations. Operate in remote, hostile environments as an independent, self-sustaining unit (with re-supply of consumables). **State Mission:** To provide a unit organized, trained and equipped which, under order of the Governor, will protect life and property, and preserve peace, order and public safety.

Base and Unit History: Located in the picturesque city of Virginia Beach, Camp Pendleton is a State Military Reservation that borders the Atlantic Ocean. It was established in 1912 as a rifle range for state troops, and is still used primarily by the Virginia National Guard. During World War II, however, it was a booming training site for new active duty recruits.

The reservation was originally created in a relatively remote, sparsely populated area. Since then, the City of Virginia

Beach has grown and developed around the facility. The 203rd RHF, which was activated in 1985, occupies about 60 acres of land and more than 75,000 square feet of real property on Camp Pendleton's 325 acres.

The 203rd RHF has a sister unit in Florida — the 202nd RED HORSE Squadron. If activated to Federal service, these two units would join together to form a 400-man RED HORSE Squadron.

The 203rd is a very active Air National Guard unit, deploying more than 200 people over the last 15 months for construction projects in Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Iceland, Qatar, Azores, England, Florida, Maryland and Virginia.

Recent Accomplishments: The 203rd is particularly proud of its recent construction projects in support of Operation Southern Watch in Southwest Asia. During the past few years, teams from the 203rd have deployed to the following locations: Qatar, twice, for electrical projects; Prince Sultan Air Base, Saudi Arabia, to construct various force protection and quality of life projects; and Al Jaber AB, Kuwait, twice, to construct K-Span buildings and various force protection and quality of life projects.

Because of these and many other successful construction projects throughout the world, it's no wonder the 203rd RHF enjoys the outstanding reputation it has earned. "Lead, Follow, or Get Out of the Way!"



UNIT SPOTLIGHT